

Al Farouq

The Criterion

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LAYLATUL BARAAT

OR THE 15TH NIGHT OF SHABAAN

The following Ahadeeth emphasize the virtue of the fifteenth night of Sha'baan. In the hadith Rasoolullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) referred to this night as '*the middle of Sha'baan*'. The numerous statements and events narrated by the Sahaaba (*radhiyallahu anhum*) regarding its superiority leave no room to doubt the sanctity and virtue of this night, which the Ulema have termed *Laylatul-Bara'at* (the Night of Freedom), for on this night those who earned the forgiveness of Allah are entitled to freedom from Hell.

1. Hazrat Abdullah bin Umar (*radhiyallahu anhu*) reports that there are five nights in a year when duas are not rejected: The night of Juma (Thursday night), the first night of Rajab, the fifteenth night of Sha'baan, and the nights of the two Eids.
2. Hazrat Ayesha (*radiyallahu anhaa*) states: "One night I discovered that Rasoolullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) was missing from his bed. I went out looking for him and found him in Baqee (the cemetery of Madinah), with his head raised to the heavens (while making dua). The messenger of Allah then said to me: "Verily Allah descends to the first heaven on the middle night of Sha'baan (15th) and forgives more people than the amount of hair on the flocks of the kalb tribe.(Baihaqi) The following people are excluded from this widespread maghfirat of Allah: 1) **The Kaafir and Mushrik (one who associates partners with Allah).** 2) **One who is disobedient to parents.** 3) **Two Muslims who bear enmity towards each other.** Allah waits for them to make up and seek each other's pardon before enveloping them with his Mercy and forgiveness. 4) **The robber.** (Narrated by Imam Baihaqi)
3. Hazrat Uthman bin Abul Aas (*radhiyallahu anhu*) narrates from the messenger of Allah : When it is the 15th night of Sha'baan then an announcer proclaims: 'IS THERE ANYONE SEEKING RIZQ (SUSTENANCE) SO THAT I MAY GRANT RIZQ? IS THERE ANYONE SEEKING FORGIVENESS SO THAT I MAY FORGIVE HIM? IS THERE ANYONE IN NEED SO THAT I MAY FULFILL THAT NEED? Consequently, anyone who asks from Allah that night will be granted his/her request, **except the prostitute and the Mushrik**
4. Another hadith narrated by our mother Hazrat Ayesha (*radiyallahu anhaa*) states that on this night Rasoolullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) said to her: "Jibreel came to me and said: 'This is the 15th night of Sha'baan. Allah has taken upon Himself to free from Jahannum as many people as the hair on the sheep of Kalb.

On this night Allah does not look (with special Mercy) at the following people: *The Mushrik; One who breaks family ties; One who wears his garments below the ankles; One who is disobedient to parents; A habitual consumer of wine;* “Thereafter Rasoolullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) sought my permission to offer Ibadat on this night, which I naturally granted. He then offered salaah and made such a long sujood, that I feared his soul had been seized. But when I drew near, I could hear him reciting the following dua in his sujood:

أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ عِقَابِكَ وَأَعُوذُ بِرِضَاكَ مِنْ سَخَطِكَ
وَأَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْكَ جَلَّ وَجْهُكَ لَا أَحْصِي ثَنَاءً عَلَيْكَ
كَمَا أَثْنَيْتَ عَلَى نَفْسِكَ

TRANSLATION

O Allah! I seek Your protection from Your punishment, and I seek the protection of Your Pleasure from Your Anger, and I seek protection in You from Yourself. Glorious is Your Countenance. I cannot enumerate Your Praises as You have praised Yourself.

The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said that ‘Jibreel commanded me to recite this dua repeatedly in the sujood of Tahajjud Salah’.

5. Hazrat Ayesha (radhiyallahu anhaa) reports that Rasoolullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said of the virtue of this night: “This is the fifteenth night of Sha’baan. Verily Almighty Allah turns His Special Attention to His servants on this night. He then forgives all those who seek forgiveness, and bestows Mercy on all those who seek Mercy. However, he leaves the people of enmity as they are.”
6. Hazrat Abdullah bin Abbas (radhiyallahu anahuma) narrates that Almighty Allah casts His Special Gaze on the Holy Ka’bah once every year, and this is on the 15th of Sha’baan. When this happens then the hearts of the believers yearn for the Holy Ka’bah. (*Kanzul-Ummal*)
7. Hazrat Ali (radhiyallahu anahu) narrates that The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said: “When the fifteenth night of Sha’baan comes then offer ibadat on that night and fast during the day, for most certainly Allah comes down to the first heaven at sunset and announces: *Is there anyone seeking forgiveness, for I shall grant forgiveness. Is there anyone seeking rizq, for I shall provide rizq. Is there anyone in difficulty, for I shall alleviate that difficulty. Is there anyone who is*

in need, for I shall fulfill that need. These announcements continue until the break of dawn.”

From the above sayings of Rasoolullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) the following important points are learnt:

- On the 15th night of Sha’baan, when the entire ummat will be blessed with extensive forgiveness and mercy, nine unfortunate souls will be deprived of this benefit. These are, *the kaafier, the mushrik, one who disobeys parents, the alcoholic, one who breaks ties with family members, a man who wears his garments below his ankles, the robber, a woman who commits adultery or fornication, and one who has malice or hatred in his heart towards another Muslim.* For these people to be included in the sweeping mercy of Allah on this auspicious night, they must make sincere taubah and stop the sin that they are committing, restore relations with family members, seek forgiveness from their parents, make good relations that were damaged, and give back the rights of those from whom these rights were usurped. This is an indication of how evil these sins are. Furthermore, similar to the sin of wine is the consuming and/or smoking of drugs, dagga, and other intoxicants. People who indulge in this evil habit will also be deprived of Allah’s Special Mercy and Forgiveness, unless they repent and make a sincere effort to reform.
- Allah promises to make provisions for our Rizq on this night. What a great opportunity to secure stability in this area of our lives. Today Muslims throughout the world are confronted with countless financial problems, from loss of income, to starvation and poverty. All these difficulties can be resolved by making sincere dua to Allah on this night, when He appeals to us to ask Him for our rizq. In order to achieve their income and alleviate money problems, Muslims are resorting to methods that are haraam, such as gambling in horse-racing, casinos, lotto tickets, or indulging in interest-related deals, or working at places that are haraam, and so forth. What need is there to adopt such drastic measures which endanger our Imaan when we can secure our rizq and income by making dua to Allah on these very special nights. We therefore, appeal to all Muslims to utilize the valuable moments of Laylatul-Bara’at to earn the forgiveness of Allah and to unlock His Doors of Sustenance.
- There is no special salaah to be made on the 15th night of Sha’baan nor is there any special congregation. Observe recitation of the Holy Quran, zikr of first and third kalimah, durood, istighfaar, nafl salaah (in no fixed amount), tahajjud salaah, and mainly, dua. Ask Allah for all your needs as well as dua for the rest of the Ummat.
- Endeavour to fast on the 15th of Sha’baan.
- It is also a sunnah act to visit the qabristan (Muslim cemetery) on this night, to make dua for the dead. ❀

**May Allah assist us all in our preparations for the glorious month of
Ramadaan, Aameen.**

A SPIRITUAL LIGHT GOES OUT

HAZRAT MOULANA YUNUS PATEL RAHIMAHULLAH

On Tuesday night (12 July 2011, 11 Shabaan 1432), in the precincts of the Holy Ka'ba, a spiritual light went out. South Africa lost one of its leading Ulema and Spiritual Reformers in Hazrat Moulana Yunus Patel sahib (rahmatullahi alayhi). Hazrat Moulana passed away after suffering a fatal heart attack, whilst awaiting the commencement of Eshaa salaah, and just after having offered what was to be his last tawaaf on earth. A befitting end to a man who dedicated his life to Allah and His Rasool (sallallahu alayhi wasalam).

Hazrat will be remembered fondly for his heart-rending and spiritually moving lectures, as well as his inspiring duas and thikr majaalis. Thousands of followers will mourn his passing on and weep over his loss for many days to come. Here is a void that can never be filled. Men of the caliber of Hazrat Moulana are irreplaceable.

Anyone who met Hazrat Moulana (rahmatullahi alayhi) would never fail to be impressed by his noble character and compassionate attitude. His affable nature endeared him to one and all, and his kind-hearted treatment of others always left an indelible imprint on their hearts. Hazrat was also a man who loved Rasoolullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) a great deal, and testimony to this is the number of times he was blessed with the glorious vision of Our Master in his dreams.

The Muslims of Durban particularly, will remain forever indebted to this Great Savant of Islam. Scores of people enjoyed success in their spiritual reformation at the hands of Hazrat Moulana Sahib. Even Ulema who had the good fortune of working under and alongside Hazrat will acknowledge the huge impact he had on their lives and their activities. Hazrat was one of the pioneers in establishing the Jamiatul-Ulema in Durban way back in the 1960's.

Hazrat Moulana Yunus sahib graduated as an Aalim in the famous Darul-Uloom Deoband and learnt under great Awliyaa of that wonderful era. Over the last 10 years his entire life was dedicated to guiding and advising the Ummat on its spiritual journey towards Allah. How successful he was in this regard needs no explanation, and only those who benefitted directly from such guidance can truly tell.

We offer sincere and heartfelt condolences to Hazrat's bereaving wife and family – Allah grant them sabr-e-jameel and ajr-e-azheem – and to all those sons and daughters who now remain bereft of a spiritual father, inna lillahi wa innaa ilayhi raj'ioon. May Allah grant Hazrat Moulana Yunus sahib (RA) lofty stages in Jannah, and place him among the *a'laa illiyyeen*, aameen. ❁